



PLWF Council Meeting Minutes

Farr Center – Onekama - 7:00 – 9:00 - Tuesday, February 28, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT

Alice Hendricks, Al Taylor, Howard Hughes, Jim Simons, Frank English, Jim Mrozinski, Margaret Panches, Laura Heintzelman, Kathy Ervin, Mary Reed

The meeting was *braceletted* to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mary Reed.

The minutes of the November meeting were reviewed and approved. Howard Hughes moved minutes be approved; Jim Simons seconded. Minutes approved

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank English reported that the Annual Fund balance at the close of 2011 was \$26,126.79. Endowment Fund balance for the same period was \$93,116.76. Correspondence from the Manistee Count Community Foundation (MCCF) indicated that the 4th quarter investment return was +6.12% and -3.43% for the year.

Laura Heintzelman, MCCF Director, announced that the Community Foundation *Fund Holder's Forum* will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms A & B at the Manistee Intermediate School District. All are invited to attend.

Al Taylor asked if the PLWF organization had a contingency fund. Response was that we do not although our Annual Fund balance has carry-forward that can be used for contingency purposes.

ENDOWMENT FUND

Mary informed the group that Mike Acton is taking time off from watershed activities but will continue to remain involved as needed. Concern was expressed about picking up his responsibilities regarding growth of the Endowment Fund. Laura said she would be happy to help in this regard; Kathy volunteered to assist.

EXPLORE THE SHORES

Kathy reported that the Explore the Shores Leadership Group was continuing to work on next steps. She distributed a handout which described what priority elements the group would be focusing on during Phase I. The primary goal is to secure funding to support these projects. She indicated that written confirmation of contributions – monetary, in-kind, time and materials, etc. - would be required by the end of March to accompany grant applications due April 1st.

Al Taylor recommended putting the Beckett & Raeder final report on the PLWF website.

LAKE PROGRESS REPORT

Mary Reed said that the lake manager is awaiting approval from DEQ for Evaluation Permits to conduct a study that will use special equipment to 'pin point' treatment below 20' in three sections of the lake. DEQ is interested in outcomes as data resulting from this will help determine the minimal effective concentration of chemical needed.

HARBOR COMMISSION

Jim Mrozinski said that, despite \$6 billion in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, the Federal Government maintains there is no money available for dredging. At this rate, he estimates that the Portage Lake channel would be navigable for only an additional two years. The Harbor Commission is working with other groups – Port Collaborative and the Great Lakes Water Coalition – to try to secure funding. He went on to say that other communities have self-funded dredging but that once they take this step they are, for all intents and purposes, off the Fed list for assistance. Priorities for dredging leave recreational harbors at 'the bottom of the barrel'.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mary indicated that she wrote a letter of support to the Benzie Conservation District for their grant application. They were unsuccessful.

NEW BUSINESS

2012 BUDGET

Frank distributed the draft of the 2012 budget. After some discussion about doing further research on development of a new PLWF website, Howard Hughes motioned for its approval, Jim Simons seconded. It was approved.

2012 ANNUAL FUND EVENT

While we have yet to name a chairperson to head this event, the group approved going forward for plans to hold the 4th Annual Fund fundraiser on Sunday, July 29th, on the Acton property on Lake Michigan. "AnDro", a Celtic based, globally-infused, world-beat music band, has agreed to provide music. Further details will be forthcoming.

FALL EVENT

We had a general discussion about joining forces with the Portage Lake Association to hold an event in September that would engage the local community. The watershed's involvement would allow distribution of information and further clarification of our goals and objectives and

essentially take the place of the H2OExPo that we held last year. We need to find a volunteer to help in plan this event and oversee our participation. More details as they become available.

OLD BUSINESS

BY LAWS REVISION

Jim Mrozinski distributed a copy of PLWF's "tweaked" by-laws and asked that they be reviewed and that any comments or suggestions be e-mailed to him (jimm@onekamamarine.com). Alice was hopeful that we approve the final by-laws at our next meeting. Mary complimented Jim and the committee – Alice Hendricks, and George Punches -- for their diligence and hard work.

Al Taylor wondered if there should be a position established to oversee Endowment development. Consensus was that the duties of the chair, as described in the by-laws, allowed for the appointment of such a person and that it was not necessary to include such a designation.

ZONING ORDINANCE

Al Taylor, who is a member of the Zoning Committee, requested that the PLWF council support the yet-to-be approved Riparian Zone Ordinance. He pointed out that the language the committee is working with is essentially the same as that in the watershed plan. The group tabled the request pending our review of the proposed ordinance and expects that a decision will be made at our next meeting.

In a somewhat similar vein, Al asked about Mike Acton's continued involvement in the Septic Ordinance. As no one could speak for Mike, this question went unanswered.

PLWF RETREAT

Based on the length of the meeting, Mary tabled this item until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura complimented the group on its commitment and shared information from the Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011, related to 'collective impact initiatives'. The article suggested that how we operate replicates the structure most likely to succeed. To see the article, go to http://www.ssireview.org/articles/entry/collective_impact

The meeting adjourned at 8:49-ish.

Next meeting is March 27, 2012 at the Farr Center. Council meetings will be held the last Tuesday of alternate months or at the call of the chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Ervin, Secretary
2/29/2012